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11 June 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR:

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SUBJECT: Notes on the First Meeting of the post-
ARGO Coordinating Committee, 10 June 1968

1. The meeting was held in Room 303 of the Executive
Office Building at 10 a.m. and was chaired by
Those in attendance were:

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(new) DCI Representative -

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(new) Department of Transportation -

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Assistant Secretary for Research
and Technology, of that Department was there for
a short period)

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(new) Office of Emergency Planning -

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Department of Agriculture -

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ESSA (Commerce)

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Department of Interior (USGS) -

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from the Office of the Director
of USGS, probably was filling in for

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AID - John Wilkes,

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NASA

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DIA -

NPIC

CIA - Otto E. Guthe

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2. [] noted that all agencies concerned had agreed to participate in the activities to be coordinated by the Committee and written responses to [] letter had been received from all but NASA. He emphasized that [] was designated to represent the DCI and, hence, the interests of the intelligence community as a whole. The President has been informed of the ARGO report and has agreed to the establishment and use of this Committee. Now [] must respond to the letters he received from heads of agencies and departments.

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3. [] stressed that, although the charter of the Committee is to consolidate the needs and views of the user civilian agencies, to make these known to the collection agencies, and to discuss procedures, it remains the responsibility of the agencies and departments to demonstrate their needs, in terms of priorities, for using photography from the on-going resource represented by the classified satellite reconnaissance systems. He suggested that representatives of agencies with overlapping requirements should staff out their relative needs among themselves prior to presentation to the Committee. The Committee provides an interface between the users and the collectors.

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4. [] then summarized the content of the replies [] had received, mentioning that AID was interested in obtaining a rough census of population, and crop acreages and yields in selected foreign countries; that Agriculture was also interested in crop distributions and production; that ESSA (Commerce) identified snow accumulation and sea-ice surveys; that Interior stressed geographic studies in addition to mapping; that OEP needed baseline information for making damage assessments; and that the Department of Transportation had not yet fully evaluated the potential of this resource to meet its needs, since it had not participated in Project ARGO.

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5. At this point [] expressed his concern regarding the costs to civilian agencies in using this photography, and wondered whether these would be expressed in terms of square miles or how? [] agreed that this problem must become a major concern of the Committee at some point.

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6. At [] request, [] explained the role of COMIREX, mentioning its subcommittees, the MCGWG under [] as NPIC representative, and Dr. Guthe's consultative position to him and to []. He stressed

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the complexities of programming collection action against requirements and noted that the ARGO report repeatedly mentioned desired frequencies in coverage and different modes of operation. Such questions would have to be considered and evaluated. He also pointed out the competition which already exists within the intelligence community with respect to area coverage, noting that such competition may be compounded by requirements presented by civilian user agencies. There is already some debate within the intelligence community regarding allocation of costs and he expressed the hope that a sensible approach to this problem would be taken. He then suggested that Sid Stallings might arrange to show members of the Committee areas of possible interest to them that might have been covered in the bi-color (false color) experimentation. Bill emphasized that a function of the Committee should be to establish relative priorities for area and frequency coverage responsive to combined needs of the user civilian agencies, prior to submittal of requirements to COMIREX. Dr. [] agreed, but did not feel that the Committee should be involved in the details associated with development of the needs of the individual agencies.

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7. [] noted that base maps will be wanted and that the DoD should be expected to provide them for foreign areas, with the USGS providing them for the United States. At this point, Mr. [] asked [] if the DoD would consider the civilian agencies' needs in the map production programming. [] answered that this would have to be explored. [] asked that the DoD present its mapping program to the Committee and [] agreed to do so at the next meeting. The USGS will present its mapping program at the same time.

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8. [] felt that there was no point in discussing the security problem at the present time. First the Committee must know what the civilian requirements will be. Members of the Committee, nevertheless, did bring up points regarding the problem of secure work and storage areas, and [] said that [] had long experience in this field and could assist them.

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9. Members of the Committee then enlarged on Dr. [] earlier summary by discussing in more detail some of the potential uses their respective agencies might make of the clandestine satellite photography. They stressed the advantages of "live" studies, if photography could be obtained on a near real-time basis, versus "historical" studies that would provide baseline information on areas of concern.

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10. [] pointed out that administrators must be persuaded that the costs are justified and that the need for requested coverage must be demonstrated to the collectors, namely the intelligence community.

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11. [] felt that the major needs of ESSA with respect to snow accumulation, sea-ice, cloud formation, hydrography, and oceanography can be met by aircraft and photography from ESSA satellites, where results are unclassified or at most secret. []

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[] felt that there might be some future possibility of downgrading index frame photography. Dave agreed that this would change ESSA's view of the potential of clandestine satellite photography for meeting its needs. [] noted that pressure from the civilian agencies would have to be exerted to obtain any downgrading of these materials.

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12. [] felt that it is important that a series of papers be prepared within six months that will specifically propose pilot area studies, showing the kinds of things that need to be identified.

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13. The next meeting of the Committee will be in Room 303, Executive Office Building, on Wednesday, 10 July 1968, at 10 a.m. [] and the USGS will give briefings and, in addition, there will be a briefing on handling materials within the system.

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Otto E. Guthe

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